

find the following mention, "James Vick yield a very heavy crop, but a large proportion of the fruit is very small, which will be against it, we fear, as a market sort; still it may do better next year."

#### MEETING OF THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

*(Continued from page 150.)*

After the visit of the Society to Mr. Roundtree's plantation, the afternoon of Thursday, February 22nd, was spent in listening to papers upon the strawberry and discussion thereon. The first paper was read by the Hon. J. M. Smith, President of the Wisconsin State Horticultural Society, on Strawberries for the North, and how to grow them.

He stated that while the strawberry is the only fruit that can be grown with any certainty from the borders of the torrid to the arctic zone, it may be said that the north temperate zone is its most favored clime. And yet, notwithstanding its adaptation to so many climates and soils, it is only within the last twenty-five years that this most delicious of our small fruits has become at all common. And now it is perfectly safe to say that a hundred bushels of berries is now used at the north where one bushel was used fifty years ago. It was about 1830 that Hovey's Seedling, and afterwards the Early Scarlet, were introduced and aroused attention to the cultivation of this fruit. These were the leading varieties at the north until about 1860, when Wilson's Albany made its appearance, and by 1863 had nearly taken possession of the northern markets, and as a market berry has virtually held its own until the present time. New varieties by hundreds have been introduced, and every effort made to supersede it with something better,

but none have yet succeeded. Though not in all respects a perfect berry, it is the most remarkable for the millions ever put into cultivation. It is at home in most of the south, and in the north can be grown wherever a good crop of corn or potatoes can be grown, and even in districts too far north to grow these crops with certainty.

The soil he prefers would be a light loam, rather damp than dry, have it thoroughly drained, and manure it heavily, say from twenty to forty loads of good stable manure to the acre. If he had plenty of land he would set the plants in double rows, that is, two rows of plants about twelve or fourteen inches apart each way, then leave a space of three and a half to four feet, and then set another double row, and so on until the ground was planted. He would allow the plants to fill the intermediate spaces in the double rows and about one foot wide upon each side, and keep the remainder clean with horse and cultivator. Some of the ranker growers, as the Crescent, may be set twice as far apart, and they will soon cover the allotted space.

He is satisfied that it will well repay the labor to pick off the blossoms the first season, and so keep all the strength for the development of the plant, and have it prepared to give the largest possible crop the following year.

Late in the fall, after the ground freezes, the plants should be covered with straw, or with what he likes better, marsh hay, just enough to hide them from view, and allowed to remain until the ground is done freezing in the spring. One of the greatest benefits of this covering is the protection given to the plants during the early spring, when the ground freezes, more or less, nearly every night, and thaws during the day.

After removing the winter covering,